



Message from the Supervisor of Elections

Greetings, Poll Workers. A lot has happened in the elections field since the last issue of the Poll Worker Pulse. We have begun a Certification Program, several elections laws have been revised, and we have found new ways to reward those Poll Workers who excel on Election Day. You will be introduced to these new ideas later in this issue. For now, I would like to focus on an initiative that I am particularly proud of and excited about - the Certification Program.

To ensure that Miami-Dade County voters are provided with the highest quality customer service, I have made significant changes to our poll worker recruitment efforts and training practices. As you may know, we have recently changed the training curriculum for the Clerks and Assistant Clerks by introducing the "Clerk Certification Program." This curriculum change will ensure that Clerks and Assistant Clerks possess the knowledge and skills necessary to competently manage their precinct and assist voters. My hope is that through the Clerk Certification Program, and ultimately the Poll Worker Certification Program, which will be launched in the near future, Election Day employees will acquire a crystal clear understanding of election laws and procedures and ultimately contribute to voter confidence at the polls.

The same material presented in past training classes is taught as part of the Certification Program, in a more hands-on setting. The new element is the introduction of the pass/fail training curriculum. Attendees must successfully complete six exercises and an open

book exam, and receive a combined score of at least an 80% to pass the course. If these criteria are met, Clerks and Assistant Clerks become "certified," which grants them the ability to continue working in this capacity. Those who do not pass the course will be encouraged to continue serving as a poll worker in the inspector capacity. The best news for Clerks is that an additional \$55.34 (check figure) is granted upon completing the course.

Congratulations to those who have recently passed the Clerk Certification Program. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the Clerks and Assistant Clerks who received a perfect score in the training course!

I would also like to congratulate the other 592 Clerks and Assistant Clerks who have participated in the program and are now Certified Miami-Dade County Clerks! Your dedication is very much appreciated. Please note that training is ongoing. If you are a Clerk or Assistant Clerk and have not yet been scheduled, you can expect a notice from the Elections Training staff soon. All other poll workers will be notified and scheduled for training once we implement the Poll Worker Certification Program.

Should you require additional information, please contact the Elections Department Training Section at 305-499-8388.



Clerks and Assistant Clerks Who Received a Perfect Score in the Clerk Cerification Training Program through August 2, 2007

NAME	PCT	NAME	PCT	NAME	PCT
Carole Ann Barnett . . . . .	.713	Manuel Grave-De Peralta . . . . .	.344	John Petroske . . . . .	.121
Sylvia Betancourt . . . . .	.451	Robin Gray . . . . .	.616	Eduardo Prieto . . . . .	.437
Sabah Brinson . . . . .	.123	Charles Hazday . . . . .	.572	Lourdes Rosado-Key . . . . .	.403
Rosa Bunch . . . . .	.747	William Hermann . . . . .	.156	Margaret Schweitzer . . . . .	.754
Jessica Caiafa . . . . .	.034	Enriqueta Hernandez . . . . .	.575	Jemil Slaughter . . . . .	.165
Karina Campos . . . . .	.143	Christie Horn . . . . .	.727	Edna Smith . . . . .	.212
Otto Castillo . . . . .	.747	Lillian Hurtado . . . . .	.769	Emily Somlyo . . . . .	.113
Mary Ann Chapman . . . . .	.806	Yanick Jeamy . . . . .	.142	Marino Torrens . . . . .	.339
Maria Cisneros . . . . .	.385	Theresa Jones . . . . .	.271	Claudia Torres . . . . .	.524
Brenda Colon . . . . .	.711	Lois Kaufman . . . . .	.730	Robert Vallejo . . . . .	.438
Margarita Cordero . . . . .	.556	Celinda Kennedy . . . . .	.435	Vivianne Vieites . . . . .	.402
Charlotte Dill . . . . .	.622	Tangela Kitchens . . . . .	.202	Arnaldo Villalobos . . . . .	.716
Renita Dixon . . . . .	.847	Patricia Knight . . . . .	.503	Shirley Walker . . . . .	.128
Norma Duran . . . . .	.347	Magda Labrada . . . . .	.703	Judy Ware . . . . .	.209
Mary Ann Engel . . . . .	.303	Olinda Lichtenenberg . . . . .	.354	Wanda Washington . . . . .	.833
Edward English . . . . .	.604	John Lopez . . . . .	.828	David Whitten . . . . .	.611
Yolanda Evans . . . . .	.274	Charlene Martin . . . . .	.367	Beverly Williams . . . . .	.838
Gloria Evans . . . . .	.336	Gwendilyn McDuffie . . . . .	.154	Hildee Wilson . . . . .	.620
Jack Fermoselle . . . . .	.613	Andrea Middleton . . . . .	.620	Charles Wilson . . . . .	.038
Samuel Friendly . . . . .	.116	Daniel Molden . . . . .	.031	Sofia Wiseman . . . . .	.336
Sherryl Ann Garcia . . . . .	.701	Roberto Molleda . . . . .	.418	Linda Wright . . . . .	.238
Roy Garren . . . . .	.745	Grace Morgan . . . . .	.706	Laura Wright . . . . .	.116
Roberta Garrett . . . . .	.710	Carolyn Olsen . . . . .	.926		
Carol Golden . . . . .	.728	Dave Patlak . . . . .	.040		

What's New

During the 2007 State legislative session, Governor Charlie Crist signed into law an election reform bill that contained various amendments and revisions that will have direct and significant impacts on you as Election Day employees. Below are just some of the highlights:

- The new law moves up Florida's Presidential Preference Primary date, which was traditionally in March, to the last Tuesday in January. The upcoming Presidential Preference Primary will be held on Tuesday, January 29, 2008.
- The new law also requires the use of optical scan technology for all elections in the State of Florida. Beginning with the August 26, 2008 Primary Election, all elections held in Miami-Dade County will be conducted using the optical scan system, whereby voters will vote on paper ballots similar to absentee ballots. The ballots will then be inserted into an optical scan reader for tabulation. The benefit to this new system is in the production of a paper record that can later be accessed for auditing and in the case of a recount. Please note this is not a new concept to the Miami-Dade County Elections Department. In fact, we have been using optical scan units to successfully process absentee ballots since 2002. In addition, one touchscreen iVotronic will continue to be available at each precinct for use by voters with disabilities.
- Effective July 1, 2007, minors may pre-register to vote on or after their 17th birthday or upon receiving a valid Florida driver's license, whichever occurs first, and may vote in any election occurring on or after their 18th birthday.

Building Renaming Event

In remembrance of a beloved colleague and dedicated election worker, the Miami-Dade Elections Department Building was renamed "Alicia Acosta-Thatcher Miami-Dade Elections Department Building."

On June 19, 2007, Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Alvarez, Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Diaz, and many other county and municipal officials joined Lester Sola, Supervisor of Elections, in a ceremony to rename the Elections Department Building in remembrance of Alicia Acosta-Thatcher, a 32 year Elections Department employee who passed away on October 10, 2005.



The renaming of the building to the "Alicia Acosta-Thatcher Miami-Dade Elections Department Building" created an everlasting monument to treasure the memories of Alicia's exceeding kindness, continued dedication to the Elections Department, and her service to Miami-Dade County voters. Alicia truly embodied what it means to "Deliver Excellence Everyday."

Reward For Perfect Precincts!

Having some extra cash in your wallet is never a bad thing, and with the new Perfect Precincts incentive program, poll workers are given the opportunity to add to their payday. Clerks will receive an extra \$25 while the Assistant Clerks, Inspectors, and Poll Deputies will be rewarded \$20 each. A Perfect Precinct must meet the following criteria:

Receive a good evaluation from the ATS

The Administrative Troubleshooter (ATS) will evaluate the precinct to make sure that the precinct register was updated with the AB List, the precinct security form was correctly completed, and voters were courteously and correctly processed on Election Day.

Equipment and supplies must be neatly and correctly stored on Election Night

Elections Logistics and Support Division personnel will check the condition of the precinct when they pick up equipment and supplies. They will also make sure that supplies were correctly packed. For example, were all machines broken down and sealed? Were precinct registers inside the Clerk's Kit?

All forms must be completed and properly delivered to the Collection Center

The Operations Division will verify that the Document Folders were returned with the appropriate documents inside. They will check for Declarations to Secure/Provide Assistance, Affirmations, and the Precinct Security Form.

The Provisional Ballot Accountability Form and all Provisional Ballot Certificates must be correctly filled out

The Ballot Transfer Bag must have all Provisional Ballots properly processed and the bag itself must be properly packed.

The precinct register signatures must match the total number of voter authorization slips used

TIP: we suggest counting the signatures in the precinct registers throughout the day when there are no voters being processed to keep an accurate running count.

More details will follow as we move towards this program's implementation date. For now, this list should give you an idea of what we will be looking for. So ask yourself, does your precinct have what it takes to be a Perfect Precinct? Hopefully, your team can accomplish this goal and earn some extra cash!

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TEAMMATES IN THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Meet the Absentee Ballots Team

DID YOU KNOW THAT: the Miami-Dade Elections Department processed 146,877 absentee ballots in 2004 and 117,801 absentee ballots in 2006?

Your Absentee Ballot Section consists of Mimi Guzman, Rosy Pastrana, Michelle Giles, Vanessa Amil, Caridad Perez-Carballoza, Julio Galligaris, Ruby Brown, and Norma Gavarrete.

In addition to the full-time staff, the Absentee Ballot Section "AB team" hires over 35 seasonal staff to assist with various aspects of the process during countywide elections. Their duties include, but are certainly not limited to: customer service, data entry, mail logging, responding to emails, signature verification, sending letters to voters, preparing and mailing absentee ballots, processing returned ballots on a daily basis, reconciling returned ballots with the number of processed ballots on a daily basis, and filing. The preparation and staffing for these duties usually begin at least three months in advance of a countywide election.

Absentee voting is one of three voting methods in Miami-Dade County. It provides

voters with physical impairments, military personnel, travelers, and those who simply would rather vote from home, a convenient opportunity to exercise their right to vote without hitting the polls.

During the Primary Election in September 2006, the Elections Department introduced an automated absentee ballot system called Relia-Vote. Prior to the implementation of the Relia-Vote, there were many challenges in the manual insertion of ballots. In an effort to increase efficiency, the department automated this process as much as possible. This new system has allowed the AB team to increase accuracy, minimize processing time, and will ultimately reduce costs. Since its inception, Relia-Vote has processed approximately 256,000 absentee ballots!

Relia-Vote has proven to work efficiently and effectively, while providing an audit trail and reporting mechanisms. All returned absentee ballots are scanned and verified with the voter's record contained on our database. Absentee ballots are then kept in a secured room until the Canvassing Board



Meet your Absentee Ballot Team from left to right: Mimi Guzman, Rosy Pastrana, Michelle Giles, Vanessa Amil, Norma Gavarrete, Julio Galligaris, Caridad Perez-Carballoza, and Ruby Brown.

gives the green light to begin the opening process. Once all absentee ballots have been tabulated, they are once again stored in a secured room for future retrieval if necessary.

The AB team is just one unit within the Miami-Dade Elections Department that contributes to the departmental goal to provide free, fair, accurate, convenient and accessible elections to all voters throughout Miami-Dade County. For additional information or to request an absentee ballot, please contact the AB team at 305-499-8444 or ABUnit@miamidade.gov.

Poll Worker Pay Schedule

POSITION	FLAT FEE
Sameboard Clerk	\$ 225.40
Clerk.	\$ 200.68
Assistant Clerk	\$ 163.60
Inspector & Poll Deputy.	\$ 145.06
Election Specialist.	\$ 190.70
Stand-By	\$ 18.54

Individuals involved in opening procedures on the day prior to the election are compensated an additional \$ 30.02 – \$ 52.97 depending on his/her position.

Miami-Dade Elections Registration Statistics as of 8/1/07

Republican	358,645	34%
Democrat	446,496	42%
Other	255,818	24%
TOTAL	1,060,959	

Upcoming Elections

9/11/2007	Virginia Gardens General Election (Registration Closing - Aug. 13)
10/2/2007	Homestead Primary Election (Registration Closing - Sept. 3)
11/6/2007	Hialeah Primary Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 8)
11/6/2007	Homestead General Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 8)
11/6/2007	Miami General Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 8)
11/6/2007	Miami Beach General and Special Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 8)
11/6/2007	Surfside Special Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 8)
11/6/2007	Sunny Isles Beach General Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 8)
11/20/2007	Hialeah General Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 22)
11/20/2007	Miami Run-Off Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 22)
11/20/2007	Miami Beach Run-Off Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 22)
12/4/2007	Biscayne Park General Election (Registration Closing - Nov. 5)
12/4/2007	Sunny Isles Beach Run-Off Election (Registration Closing - Nov. 5)

2008 Countywide Elections

1/29/2008	Presidential Preference Primary (Registration Closing - Dec. 31)
8/26/2008	Miami-Dade County Primary Election (Registration Closing - July 28)
11/4/2008	Miami-Dade County General Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 6)

Spread the Word

The Miami-Dade County Elections Department is currently recruiting poll workers to staff precincts for upcoming municipal elections and three countywide elections scheduled in 2008. We ask for your help in recruiting your family and friends as new poll workers. In order to serve as poll workers, they must be registered voters in Miami-Dade County and be available to work on Election Day from 5:30 a.m. until after the polls close at 7:00 p.m.

As you are aware, poll workers receive compensation for attending mandatory training and for service on Election Day. To take the first step in becoming a poll worker, have friends and family complete and sign a poll worker application form and fax it to 305-499-8355 or mail it to:

**Miami-Dade County Elections Department
Community Outreach Section
2700 NW 87 Avenue
Miami, Florida 33172**

Applications can be downloaded at:

http://elections.miamidade.gov/Library/pollworker_application.pdf

Or simply contact the Poll Worker Recruitment Section at **305-499-8448**.

Poll Worker Pulse is now available in either hardcopy via mail or electronic copy via email. Please confirm your delivery preference by contacting Phares Poliard, Outreach Coordinator, at 305-499-8320.

CONTACT INFORMATION

**Miami-Dade Elections Department • www.miamidade.gov/elections
305-499-VOTE (8683) • TTY: 305-499-8480**

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Mayor



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County Manager

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Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

"It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

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